

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application. No. : Unassigned  
Applicant : Alex A. Lopez-Estrada  
Docket No. : 42390.P11761C  
Customer No. : 8791

Continuation of  
Application :

Application No. : 09/967,440  
Confirmation No. : 6464  
Filed. : 9/27/2001  
TC/A.U. : 2654  
Examiner : Kinari M. Patel

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

The subject Application, a continuation of the above-identified parent Application, is being filed concurrently. Applicant respectfully requests amending the subject Application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.